

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are in the case and presented for consideration.

Claims and specification have been amended for clarity. Support for new claim 19 can be found, for example, on page 5, lines 3-5, of the specification. Support for new claim 20 can be found, for example, on Figs. 3, 5 and 6.

Specification

The Examiner suggested that section headings be added to the specification. See page 2 of the December 30, 2005 office action.

In response, Applicant respectfully maintains that according to MPEP § 608.01(a), the use of section heads is not required. However, for clarity and to expedite the prosecution of this application, section headings are added to the specification by this Amendment.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected by the Examiner for containing informalities. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 for clarity. Claim 1 as amended does not contain the above-mentioned issue, thereby is believed to render the above ground of objection moot. In addition, Applicant respectfully maintains that claim 1 should not be interpreted as creating a limitation on the orientation of the circuit lines. The claimed device comprises at least one pair of lines for diverting interference pulses or interference signals from, e.g., the inner conductor to ground or housing (see page 10, lines 1-5, of the specification), and the lines are arranged such that a portion of the lines are substantially parallel and/or

overlapping with one another (see Figs. 1, 3, 5 and 6). Depending the particular application or requirements of the device, the lines can be oriented, for example, such that the length of the lines extends substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the device (see Fig. 1, 3 and 6), or such that the lines extend radially and/or counter-rotationally outward, each line in a radial plane that is parallel with respect to one another and is approximately at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the device (see Fig. 5), or such that the lines can be formed to have a combination of two or more of such orientations (see Fig. 6).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 8-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 of Ammann (PCT/CH01/000617).

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's above ground of rejection. Ammann discloses a system, which comprises two short circuit lines that are arranged *linearly on the same axis* (i.e., placed or connected end to end to form, essentially, a single line), and are connected to the housing through a single connection point (16). See, Ammann, Fig. 1. Applicant's claimed invention, therefore, cannot be anticipated because Ammann does not disclose or teach every feature recited in claim 1 and its dependent claims. Ammann does not disclose or teach, among other patentable features and/or combinations, a pair of circuit lines provided in an arrangement such that the lines, or a portion thereof, are parallel, that the lines are connected to the housing at different connection points, and/or that the ends of each line does not make contact with one another. Ammann also does not disclose or teach overlapping the circuit lines or arranging the circuit lines such that they extend radially and/or counter-rotationally

outward from the inner conductor, so that the device can accommodate one or more circuit lines that extend at least substantially the length of the device (see Figs. 1, 3 and 6). Another feature, which is not disclosed or taught by Ammann, is that the flow of the currents through each line in opposite directions through the parallel and/or overlapping section(s) of the lines increases the current carrying capacity of the device and further reduces residual pulses or energies. See page 3, lines 16-26, and page 4, lines 1-7, of the specification. Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above, Ammann cannot anticipate Applicant's claimed invention as recited in claims 1-3 and 8-18, and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ammann as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Pat. 6,529,357 to Landinger, et al. The Examiner stated that "it would have been obvious... to combine the teachings of Ammann with Landinger, et al., by placing the inner connector of Ammann in the hollow taught by Landinger, et al. and to place the two shunt lines (5 & 6) taught by Ammann in the additional hollow space (4) taught by Landinger, et al." See pages 8-9 of December 30, 2005 office action.

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's above ground of rejection. As discussed previously (in the preceding section), since Ammann does not disclose or teach every feature recited in claim 1, the combination or modification of Ammann and Landinger, et al. as proposed by the Examiner cannot render obvious Applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection respectfully requested.

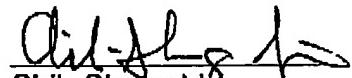
The Examiner rejected claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ammann and further in view of U.S. Pat. 5,982,602 to Tellas, et al. The Examiner stated that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ammann with Tellas, et al., by placing two curvilinear stubs taught by Tellas, et al., in the surge protector connector and arranging them in such a way that the current through the stubs travel in an opposite direction in respect to one another as taught by Ammann." See pages 10 of December 30, 2005 office action.

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's above ground of rejection. As discussed previously, Ammann discloses or teaches, for example, providing two circuit lines in an end-to-end arrangement. Tellas, et al. disclose a *single* curvilinear stub connected to an inner conductor. Accordingly, there is no motivation or suggestion from Ammann and Tellas, et al. to provide a surge protector device with two parallel and/or overlapping circuit lines let alone arranging the lines so that the currents flow in opposite directions through the parallel and/or overlapping region(s). Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the application and claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to advance the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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